

G. INCOME LIMITS AND RATES OF PENSION. The rate of pension paid to a veteran depends upon the amount of family income and the number of dependents, according to a formula provided by law. All payments from all sources are countable unless excluded by law. Because benefit rates and income limits are frequently changed, such information cannot be kept current in these instructions. Information regarding current income limitations and rates of benefits may be obtained by contacting your nearest VA office.

(1) A higher rate of pension is payable to a veteran who is a patient in a nursing home or otherwise determined to be in need of regular aid and attendance or who is permanently housebound due to disability.

(2) Pension rates are also increased for a veteran who served during the Mexican Border Period or World War I.

IMPORTANT

YOU MUST SHOW ALL TYPES OF PAYMENTS FROM ALL SOURCES FOR YOURSELF, SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN BEFORE ANY DEDUCTIONS OR WITHHOLDINGS. UNDER 38 CFR 3.271(a), PAYMENTS OF ANY KIND FROM ANY SOURCE SHALL BE COUNTED AS INCOME UNLESS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED BY LAW. VA WILL DETERMINE ANY AMOUNT WHICH DOES NOT COUNT. INCLUDE ALL SEVERANCE PAY OR OTHER ACCRUED PAYMENTS OF ANY KIND OR FROM ANY SOURCE. WHEN NO INCOME IS RECEIVED OR EXPECTED FROM A SPECIFIED SOURCE, WRITE "NONE" IN THE APPROPRIATE BLOCK (ITEMS 36A THROUGH 39A). IF INCOME FROM ANY SOURCE IS ANTICIPATED BUT THE AMOUNT IS NOT YET DETERMINED, WRITE "UNKNOWN" IN THE APPROPRIATE BLOCK. ATTACH SEPARATE SHEETS IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED.

H. FAMILY MEDICAL EXPENSES are amounts actually paid by you for which you are not reimbursed by insurance or otherwise. We can reduce your income for VA purposes (and increase your rate of pension) if your medical expenses qualify for exclusion under the formula provided by law. If you are awarded pension, an Eligibility Verification Report (EVR) will be mailed to you approximately a year after the effective date of your award. You should keep a record of all medical expenses you pay after you become entitled to pension and report them with the EVR. Normally, an adjustment for medical expenses is made at the end of the income reporting year and results in a retroactive payment to you. However, if your income is static and you have a consistently high level of medical expenses (such as nursing home fees), it may be possible to increase your rate without waiting until the end of the year. Show unreimbursed medical expenses in Items 41A through 41G.

I. LAST ILLNESS AND BURIAL EXPENSES. Your countable income may be reduced by the amount of expenses of the last illness and burial of a spouse or child paid by you. Use Item 40, "Remarks," to report such expenses.

J. EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION EXPENSES are amounts paid for courses of education, including tuition, fees, and materials and may be deducted from the respective incomes of a veteran and the earned income of a child if the child is pursuing a course of postsecondary education or vocational rehabilitation or training. If you or your child(ren) paid these expenses, keep a record of the payments and report them in the space provided on your EVR form (See par. H).

K. PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS HEALTH REGISTRY. VA has a registry of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War theater of operations during the war. If you served there during the war, we will include your name in the registry. If you want us to include medical and other information about you, you must check the "YES" block above your signature on page 10. The information in this registry will be shared only with the Department of Defense and others as permitted by law, such as for research purposes, the National Academy of Sciences. We will keep you informed of significant developments in research on the health consequences of military service in the Persian Gulf theater of operations. You may request a VA health examination that will include a consultation and counseling covering the results of that examination. Contact your nearest VA medical facility to request an examination.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT: These instructions are numbered to correspond with the items on the application. If additional space is required, attach a separate sheet and identify your statements by their item numbers.

ITEMS 3A AND 3B - The number entered in Item 3A, Veteran's Social Security Number, should be your own Social Security number. In Item 3B enter your spouse's Social Security number. Disclosure of these Social Security Numbers is mandatory under Title 38 U.S.C. 5101(c).